

[Mr. M. N. Narayana Menon.]

- (d) the amount expended from the amount sanctioned : and
- (e) whether they propose to expend the balance, if any, this year itself ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT :

- (a) 24-6-1933.
- (b) The valuation statements are being verified.
- (c) The original allotment was Rs. 5,000, but it has subsequently been reduced to Rs. 4,000.
- (d) Rs. 820-16-11.
- (e) Yes, if the land acquisition proceedings are completed and the lands handed over.

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, on this the first occasion when you preside over the Sri Chitra State Council, may I, Sir, with your permission, offer you on behalf of my non-official colleagues on this side of the House a cordial and respectful welcome? We are really proud that a statesman of your eminence and a leader of renown is our President. You have been at the head of the Administration for some time now and, to whichever part of the country, public business took you in the meanwhile, the local people received you with great respect and cordiality and showered encomiums on your past achievements. Constant references to your achievement, it would seem, have begun to embarrass you. But, Sir, it is pardonable, if in the discerning eyes of the intelligent Travancorean, those achievements appear in new and heightened colours. However, Sir, I resist the temptation to dwell on those achievements and I may proceed to say at once that we in this House consider ourselves to be in a position of distinct advantage in that, we have been enabled to know your views regarding some of the major problems that confront the State and also your attitude towards the legislative bodies in this country and towards the representative institutions generally. Sir, in your address at the Sri Mulam Assembly, you made it known that it is your desire and your determination to make the legislature, over which you preside, a model of what all of us ardently desire it should be. It is really very heartening, Sir, to us who are sensitive about our rights and privileges, your assurances that you will uphold the dignity and prestige of the Council are most welcome. You have also, Sir, anticipated our wishes, when you declared that the gaps that may be found existing in the Rules and Standing Orders would be filled by the establishment of healthy conventions on progressive and democratic lines. Sir, a second Chamber, is unknown either in an Indian State or in a Provincial Administration. We assure you, Sir, that we realise fully the responsibilities of a revising Chamber. Our past record, brief as it is, is proof that we have imposed healthy restraints upon ourselves in order that we may avoid dead-locks arising, we have tried to transcend all barriers of caste and creed and have worked with a view to promote the

interests of the country as a whole. Sir, I must assure you that we do not form an opposition to Government. The very constitution of this Council makes such a proposition impossible. The non-officials on this side of the House address ourselves to the task of representing as ably, as faithfully and as efficiently as we can, the orthodox non-official view-point and to show to the Government that there is more than one side to a question, and we also feel that our task will be lightened by the fact that even under the weight of the responsibilities of high office, you remain at heart a chastened non-official. We are therefore confident that our view-point will receive greater and more sympathetic consideration at your hands. Once more, Sir, I offer you a hearty welcome.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI Sir, I also request permission to say a few words on this occasion. It is but common courtesy that we, the members of the Sri Chitra State Council, should welcome you, Sir, into our midst as our new Dewan-President. From what we have known of your past through the press and also from you personally through your speeches, we have every reason to place high hopes on you. How far your experiences in the representative institutions in British India and elsewhere are going to be utilised to the advantage of this Council is a matter on which every one of us here is greatly anxious about.

I believe, I will not be misunderstood when I say that it is premature now on our part to hazard any opinion about our Dewan-President before he has had time enough to translate his high ideals into accomplished facts. Sir, you have, yourself, rightly said on many an occasion and particularly in your reply to the welcome given to you by the Huzur Secretariat Association that the success or otherwise of your administration of this country will be judged by you only from what the people here have to say of you on the eve of your laying down the office, for it is only then that a genuine and unalloyed appreciation is given expression to without considerations of personal benefits. Sir, I am tempted to believe that that statement of yours is the outcome of your close study of Travancore and its people from outside. Sir, there cannot be any grace or propriety in praising a man to the skies all on a sudden soon after his arrival into our midst and then throwing mud at him just when his departure is announced or even rumoured. Unlike this practice usually, but unfortunately, obtained in this country, I hope that in your case the occasion will only arise when every one of the sentiments expressed here by my friend Mr. Madhavan Pillai would be reiterated. From the experience you have gained during your recent tour in this country and also from the Assembly you must have, by this time, been impressed with the fact that it is after all nothing difficult for you to win the approbation of the people when you have around you men always waiting in readiness only for opportunities to co-operate with Government in all their endeavours. With these words, Sir, I join in the felicitations offered by my friend Mr. Madhavan Pillai.

MR. S. ADAM SAIT (*Nominated*): Sir, I fully support the sentiments expressed by my learned friends and pray Allah to make our united endeavours most successful and beneficial to the people of the State.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Madhavan Pillai and brother members of the House: I feel myself in a somewhat embarrassing position having sat here these few minutes to listen to the high encomiums that have been showered upon me by the speakers who have referred to my past record of achievement in British India; and to the high hopes which they have expressed as a result of my past knowledge and experience in other fields. This is neither the time nor the occasion to refer to those incidents in my life. However, the only assurance that I can give you at the present moment will be that I shall in consonance with the oath that I have just now taken, faithfully discharge the duties upon which I have entered. I think it is only right that I should on this occasion assure you that I feel greatly thankful to you for the welcome which you have accorded to me and for the generous terms in which you have spoken about me. It was my intention that when I addressed the Assembly the other day, I should also have the pleasure of inviting the members of the State Council and address them jointly; but since there was an interval of about a week between the commencement of the two sessions, I refrained from doing so, for I realised that it would be highly inconvenient to the members of this House to assemble in Trivandrum a week before their work actually began. Those of you who have read the address which I delivered to the members of the Assembly—and others perhaps will have an opportunity of reading it in print when the proceedings of the House are circulated—must have formed their judgment as to the intentions of your present President. I do not wish to cover the same ground again, but I would merely say that the sentiments I then expressed, the co-operation from the House which I then sought, the promises which I made to bring up the discussions of the two Houses to a high level of efficiency and the few words of advice which I ventured to give to the other House all apply with equal force to the members of this House. I shall reiterate one remark in view of what has fallen from Mr. Madhavan Pillai. I will jealously guard the dignity and the independence of this House so long as I am your President. I shall, at the same time, give you every help that you may seek from me for the purpose of creating, as I then said, healthy conventions which go a great way in all the Legislatures in the land for the purpose of smoothening and facilitating the work before the House. I shall not, therefore, say anything more except to give you the assurance once again that I feel greatly honoured by the welcome which you have accorded to me and I shall end with the fervent hope that our relations during the period that I shall have the honour to preside will be cordial.